



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO

DIRECTOR'S ORDER NO. 179

Subject: Determining Approval and Effective Dates for Federal Assistance Grants

Sec. 1 What is the purpose of this Order? This Order distinguishes between the effective date of a grant period and the grant approval date, and provides guidance for determining these dates for grants under the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs.

Sec. 2 To whom does this Order apply? This Order applies to all Service personnel who administer grants funded through the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs.

Sec. 3 What are the authorities for adopting this Director's Order?

- a. 16 U.S.C. 777.
- b. 16 U.S.C. 669.
- c. 50 CFR 80.11.
- d. 50 CFR 80.15(c).
- e. 43 CFR 12.65(b)

Sec. 4 What constitutes grant approval by the Service? Grant approval by the Service occurs upon signing of the grant by the appropriate Service Regional representative.

Sec. 5 What is the definition of effective date? The effective date of a grant is the starting date of the grant period.

Sec. 6 How is the effective date of a grant established? The effective date is established at the time the grant is approved by the Service.

a. If the grant is approved by the Service prior to the starting date requested by the State, the effective date will be the requested starting date.

b. If the Service is unable to approve a grant until after the starting date requested by the State, the effective date will be either the date the Service received the complete grant package or the starting date requested by the State, whichever is later.



Sec. 7 Can the State begin work on a grant prior to Service approval and designation of the effective date? The State can begin work whenever it chooses; however, the Service cannot obligate any funds for a grant until the grant is approved by the Service. If the State chooses to incur costs related to a grant prior to the date of approval, the State is acting with no assurance that any of its expenditures will be eligible for reimbursement. If the grant is not approved, no expenditures are eligible for reimbursement.

Sec. 8 How is the effective date documented? The Service is responsible for clearly identifying the effective date on the grant and communicating that date to the State. The effective date must be on the original and each copy of the approved grant agreement. The effective date should also be specifically mentioned in the transmittal correspondence to the State and it must be entered into the Federal Assistance Information Management System.

Sec. 9 What is the effective date of this Director's Order? This Order is effective immediately. We will include the contents of this Order in Part 522 of the Fish and Wildlife Service Manual. This Order will expire on September 30, 2005, unless amended, superseded, or revoked.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Williams", written in a cursive style.

DIRECTOR

Date: September 28, 2004